

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas Hura on 6/7/05.

The application has been amended as follows: The paragraph after "Related Application" has been replaced by the following paragraph:

"This application is a continuation-in-part of US Patent Application Serial No. 09/978,741, filed 10/16/2001, (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of US Patent Application Serial No. 09/540,389, filed 3/3/2000, now U.S. Patent 6,306,927, which claims the benefit of US Provisional Application 60/128,734, filed 4/12/1999." Additionally, in claims 5 and 6, line 1, the word "one" has been replaced by the number - --1--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, Blackwell et al. 6,306,927, does not disclose a particle size span of less than 1.5, as a matter of fact it does not disclose a particle size span at all.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1714

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Szekely whose telephone number is (571) 272-1124. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Peter Szekely
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

P.S.
6/7/05

6/22/05